

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 01 OCTOBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEYS

It is with deep regret that the Council of the SARL announces the passing away of two radio amateurs recently.

Okkie Crouse, ZS3OC, of Kimberley suffered a heart attach on 16 September 2006 while visiting his 2 daughters and son-in-law in Cape Town.

Lance Edmunds, ZS6ZN, passed away Saturday 23rd September.

We extend our condolences to the relatives and friends of Okkie and Lance.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

YOUNG PEOPLE INVITED TO JOIN THE SARL

SOUTH AFRICA'S SECOND SATELLITE REACHES A MAJOR MILESTONE

SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA ON THE SHORTLIST FOR THE SKA MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

YOUNG PEOPLE INVITED TO JOIN THE SARL

The Council of the SARL invites young people to join as student members at a special introductory fee of R50 which will cover membership between now and the 30th of June 2007. Membership will include access to all the SARL electronic services and the online edition of Radio ZS as well as use of the QSL bureau. It however does not include a printed copy of the magazine.

Making the decision, Council is of the opinion that the youth will play an important part in maintaining growth in Amateur Radio and should be encouraged to join the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa.

A motion will be tabled at the SARL AGM to enshrine student membership on a sustainable basis into the constitution. Student membership is one of the grades of membership listed in the constitution but currently the full fee of R305 is payable. A student member by definition is a person who is under 25 years old, and studies full time at a recognised educational institution. Proof of this is required when applying for membership by including a copy of the student card or a letter from the school. Young people who attend home schooling should include a statement as such signed by a parent or home schooling teacher.

“As part of our youth year initiative we introduced the new entry level syllabus for a ZU licence. Together with the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust YARP - Youth in Amateur Radio Programme was launched to assist young people to study and write the radio amateur’s examination”, Graham Hartlett, President of the SARL said. “Our Student membership is yet another indication that we are serious about our youth programme. We are working on several exciting activities under the Youth Year banner for 2007”, he said.

Application for membership forms are available on the web at www.sarl.org.za or call Vee at 011 675 2393 Mondays to Fridays between 09:00 and 13:00 or send an email to admin@sarl.org.za.

OCTOBER 4 - 11 INTERNATIONAL SPACE WEEK

The SA AMSAT write a beacon text competition continues as part of international space week, an activity that focuses on various space related activities to encourage the youth to take an interest in space sciences. Details of the competition can be found on www.amsatsa.org.za. You can also download a high resolution space week poster.

If you operate satellites, invite a youngster into the shack this week and share the excitement of Amateur Radio in Space.

SOUTH AFRICA’S SECOND SATELLITE REACHES A MAJOR MILESTONE

South Africa’s second satellite “Sumbandila” has reached a major milestone this week. The satellite, which is being built by SunSpace in cooperation with the University of Stellenbosch, is now at the Institute for Software and Space Applications (ISSA) for its final environmental testing.

“This week the communications and experimental payloads will be integrated in readiness for the rigorous testing cycle which will start immediately after payload integration” said SunSpace’s Systems Engineer, Hendrik Burger. ISSA is an initiative of the Department of Communications, aimed at meeting the high level needs of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector. It is housed at the Houwteq space facilities built on the Haasvlakte within a scenic fynbos reserve near Grabouw. The facility is fully equipped for the design, programme management, integration and testing of small satellites.

The Sumbandila satellite is sponsored by the Department of Science and Tech-

nology to create much needed activity in the space environment in South Africa. Sumbandile Sat is a microsat weighing 81,5 kg and will carry a multi-spectral imager, and several experiments from various interest groups, into a low earth polar orbit making its appearance over South Africa mid morning and early evening.

The satellite will carry the SA AMSAT Amateur payload which includes a FM transponder, a parrot transponder and an audio beacon. For the past few weeks Andrew Roos, ZS6AAA, and Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, have worked hard to optimise the software and carried out extensive testing. The final word from the Stellenbosch integration team was well done guys!

JOIN THE PRESIDENT NET AND INTECNET THIS SUNDAY EVENING

The President net will be on the air tonight at 19:00 followed by the Intecnet. Jacques van Delft will be the guest speaker on the INTECNET. He will discuss the interaction between the Solar Cycle and Weather patterns. The question whether there is a correlation, will be reviewed. Some very stunning solar images are available on the web to download from www.sarl.org.za. Jacques will use these images to discuss some of his findings.

Clubs have till noon today to book a connection to the network. Send details to armi@sarl.org.za.

SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA ON THE SHORTLIST FOR THE SKA

South Africa and Australia are the two countries now on the shortlist to host the SKA. "The SKA is the World Cup of Science, building it in South Africa will propel us into a new era of science and technology and give us the opportunity to be a leading nation in the global economy. Its benefit to South Africa will be far-reaching and long term", the Minister of Science and Technology, Mosibudi Mangena, said when making the announcement in Pretoria last week.

The SKA - Square Kilometre Array will be the biggest telescope ever built and will be the only one of its kind to be built in the world. It is the only instrument which can solve the most basic questions of the origin of the universe and the birth and evolution of stars and galaxies. Visit www.amsatsa.org for more.

ADHERENCE TO VHF AND UHF BAND PLANS IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM USE OF THE SPECTRUM

VHF and UHF band plans are devised to achieve maximum use of the spectrum allocated to Amateur Radio and adherence to the plans ensures interference free operation and ultimately that great satisfaction of hearing a weak or satellite signal and make a QSO.

Amateur satellites have a very broad footprint and to ensure world-wide interference free operation certain segments of the various frequency bands are set aside for this.

For instance, for FM voice communication with the International space station

and other manned space vehicles 145,200 MHz is set aside for simplex operation or 145,200/145,800 for transponder type operation. Please do not use these frequencies for ordinary ground based QSO's. The segment 145,800 - 146,000 MHz is set aside for satellite operation. Please do not use this segment for terrestrial operation. Similarly the segment 435,000 - 438,000 MHz is also set aside for the amateur satellite service.

Band plans are internationally coordinated by the International Amateur Radio Union by mutual agreement. Band plans are available on www.sarl.org.za, look in the left hand column for licences, open the page and then click on band plans.

MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Motions for submission and consideration at the Annual General Meeting of the SARL on 14 April 2007 are invited from members.

Each motion must contain the following:

1. A concise description of the motion;
2. A motivation in support of the motion;
3. A proposer and a seconder must sign each motion.

Motions must reach the Secretary by no later than 30 November 2006. They must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 or faxed to 088 011 675 2793.

CONTEST NEWS

SARL 80 Metre QSO Party

The second leg of the SARL 80 Metre QSO Party will be run on Thursday evening, 5 October 2006, starting at 19:00 and ending at 22:00 CAT. It is a phone only contest on the band segment 3,600 to 3,700 MHz. The exchange is Call sign, RS signal report, serial number commencing with 001 and your Grid Locator or QTH. A contact with a South African station counts 10 points and a contact with a station outside South Africa counts 15 points.

HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from unsettled to major storm levels on 1 and 2 October. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 10.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 06:00 CAT and also 40 m at 19:00.

From about 13:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe. From 18:00 15 m may open to the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

01 October - President's Net and Intecnet; 05 October - SARL 80 Metre QSO Party; 07 October - East Rand Flea market; 15 October - Closing date for submitting Sumbandile beacon message; 19 October - End of year RAE; 20/22 October - CQ Hou Koers and JOTA 28 October - 1 September - Special station ZS6VT.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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